1 2 3 The Honorable Ronald B. Leighton 4 Magistrate Judge Theresa L. Fricke 5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 6 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT TACOMA 7 R.M., Individually, NO. 18-cv-05387-RBL-TLF 8 Plaintiff. 9 DEFENDANTS' SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF REGARDING PLAINTIFF'S 10 SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT v. STATE OF WASHINGTON, SHERYL Noted for: March 22, 2019 11 ALLBERT, ALLISON BERGLIN, KEVIN BOVENKAMP, B. BRAID, 12 DIEGO LOPEZ de CASTILLA, JAMES J. EDWARDS, DALE FETROE, G. 13 STEVEN HAMMOND, J. DAVID KENNEY, MARY KEPPLER, EDITH 14 KROHA, ERIC LARSEN, KENNETH LAUREN, FRANK LONGANO, SHERI 15 MALAKHOVA, KEN E. MOORE, SHIRLEE M. NEISNER, MARTHA 16 NEWLON, JOAN PALMER, KELLY REMY, JON REYES, DALE 17 ROBERTSON, F. JOHN SMITH, KENNETH SAWYER, BO 18 STANBURY, and DOES 1-10, 19 Defendants. 20 T. INTRODUCTION 21 The new allegations in R.M.'s Second Amended Complaint do nothing to address the 22 point that there is no genuine issue of material fact and that summary judgment in Defendants' 23 favor is warranted. R.M.'s new allegations include undisputed facts already in the record and 24 highlight matters already addressed by the parties in the Defendants' Summary Judgment 25 Motion. R.M. has failed to present sufficient evidence to meet his burden of proof. On summary 26

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judgment proceedings, hypotheticals, what ifs, and speculative assertions are inadequate. The Court should grant Defendants' motion.

II. PLAINTIFF'S NEW ALLEGATIONS

Plaintiff's additional allegations fail to create a genuine issue of material fact to avoid summary judgment dismissal. Briefly, these new allegations include:

1. ¶ 4.1: That there were 13 cases of Peyronie's disease reported to the Federal Drug Administration in 2014 linked to the use of the drug Lisinopril.

Defendants' Response: Defendants previously asked the court to reject this internet derived information as the information had not been introduced with proper foundation by a medical expert. Defendants' Reply In Support of their Motion for Summary Judgment ("Reply") at p.8, ll. 18-25 (Dkt. 85, p. 8). Defendants alternatively asked that if the court accepted this information, that it also take judicial notice that in 2014 Lisinopril was prescribed over 4 million times and that the 13 people who were reported to the FDA as taking Lisinopril and diagnosed with Peyronie's disease in 2014 were men between the ages of 30-39 who also took Viagra. *Id.* As Defendants asserted before, R.M. is not in this age group nor has he alleged that he was prescribed Viagra at any time relevant to his lawsuit. Reply, p. 9 ll. 1-15 (Dkt. 85, p. 9).

2. ¶ **4.2**: That R.M. told Physician's Assistant ("PA-C") Jo Ella Phillips on July 31, 2014, that he noticed lumps in his penis about a year before and had painful nocturnal erections that woke him.

Defendants' Response: These facts are undisputed. *See* Attachment A to Jo Ella Phillips November 14, 2018 Declaration ("Phillips 11/14/18 Decl.")(Dkt. 58, p. 5-6).

3. ¶¶ **4.3**, **4.4**, **4.7** and **4.9**: That on July 31, 2017, both PA-C Phillips and Dr. James Edwards examined and assessed R.M. as having Peyronie's disease; Dr. Edwards said it was very unlikely that his disease was related to any of the medications R.M. had been taking; the three reviewed UpToDate.com, a website DOC subscribes to; on July 31, 2014, PA-C Phillips

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1	submitted a urology consultation request to the Care Review Committee ("CRC"); R.M. saw Dr.				
2	Edwards on November 20, 2014, at which time Dr. Edwards prescribed to him Trental, an oral				
3	medication used to treat Peyronie's disease; R.M. saw Dr. Edwards on January 8, 2015, and				
4	again complained about having painful nocturnal erections; and on January 8, 2015, Dr. Edwards				
5	submitted a second urology consultation request to the CRC.				
6	Defendants' Response: These facts are undisputed. James Edwards Declaration dated				
7	November 14, 2018, ("Edwards 11/14/18 Decl."). ¶ 7 (Dkt.53); Phillips 11/14/18 Decl. ¶ ¶				
	6, 7 (Dkt. 58).				
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9	4. ¶¶ 4.4, 4.5, 4.10 and 4.12: That all CRC members are employed by or contracted with				
10	DOC; the two requests submitted to the CRC were denied by consensus vote; the contents of the				
11	CRC reports are quoted by R.M. and speak for themselves.				
12	Defendants' Response: These facts are undisputed. Attachment D to Phillips 11/14/18				
13	Decl. (Dkt. 58); Attachment H to Edwards 11/14/18 Decl. (Dkt. 53).				
14	5. ¶ 4.6: That both PA-C Phillips and Dr. Edwards found palpable plague ¹ in R.M.'s penis				
15	5. ¶ 4.6 : That both PA-C Phillips and Dr. Edwards found palpable plaque ¹ in R.M.'s penis when they examined him on August 6, 2014; on October 6, 2017, Dr. Russell, the consultant,				
	provided four treatment recommendations - topical and injected Verapamil, injected Xiaflex and				
16	a penile implant; Dr. Russell wrote that treatment by injection required a discrete lesion which				
17	he did not find when he examined R.M.'s penis.				
18	ne did not find when he examined K.W. 8 penis.				
19	Defendants' Response: These facts are undisputed. Attachment F to Edith Kroha 11/14/18				
20	Declaration ("Kroha 11/14/18 Decl.")(Dkt. 52, p. 12-13). Also, Defendants previously asked				
21	the court to reject R.M.'s internet derived information about Xiaflex as the information had				
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25	The records on file veniously identify nelnoble alease = "alease" "leader" " " alease" " alease" " alease " " alease" " alease " " alease" " alease " " alease " alea				
26	¹ The records on file variously identify palpable plaque as "plaque" "lesions" "nodules" and now in the Second Amended Complaint R.M. refers to them as "collagen scar tissue."				

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1	not been introduced with proper foundation by a medical expert. Reply, p. 9, ll. 1-15 (Dkt.		
2	85). Defendants' objections regarding internet based information continue here.		
3	6. ¶¶ 4.7 and 4.23: That R.M. submitted grievances and completed all grievance processes		
4	prior to filing suit.		
56	Defendants' Response: These facts are undisputed. Defendants' Answer to Second Amended Complaint, ¶ 4.12 (Dkt. 93).		
7 8 9	7. ¶ 4.12: That following the CRC review on January 21, 2015 R.M. "did not follow up on his PD until 2017."		
10 11	Defendants' Response: This fact is admitted. Second Amended Complaint ("2 nd Am. Cmplt"), ¶ 4.12 (Dkt. 92).		
12 13	8. ¶ 4.15 : That on June 13, 2017, ARNP Kroha said R.M.'s condition "had not gotten worse" but she also did not say "it had gotten better."		
14 15	Defendants' Response: These facts are undisputed. Kroha 11/14/18 Decl. ¶ 6 (Dkt. 52).		
16 17 18	9. ¶ 4.20: That Dr. Russell, the consultant, assessed R.M. as having "Probable Peyronie's disease" based on R.M.'s reporting to him that he had "painful nocturnal erections" and "foreshortening of the penis" and that Dr. Russell identified four specific potential treatments.		
19 20	Defendants' Response: These facts are undisputed. Attachment F to Kroha 11/14/18 Decl., ¶ 8 (Dkt. 52, p. 11-13).		
21	10. ¶¶ 4.21 and 4.22: That ARNP Kroha submitted a request to the CRC with Dr. Russell's		
22	four recommendations for treatment and that on November 8, 2017, the CRC denied all requests.		
23	Defendants' Response: These facts are undisputed. 2 nd Am. Cmplt. ¶ 4.21 (Dkt. 92); Kroha		
24	11/14/18 Decl. ¶8 (Dkt. 52).		
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III. ISSUES PRESENTED 1. Does R.M. fail to state a §1983 deliberate indifference claim when he fails to meet his burden of alleging specific facts to prove essential elements of that claim?

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2. Is each individual Defendant entitled to qualified immunity because R.M. fails to allege, and therefore only speculates, what conduct violated the Eighth Amendment, and consequently cannot prove that any such conduct violated a "clearly established" right?

IV. POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

If the non-moving party fails to establish the existence of a genuine issue of material fact, the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett,* 477 U.S. 317, 323-24 (1986). Despite asserting new allegations in a Second Amended Complaint, there is no evidence that supports an element essential to R.M.'s §1983 deliberate indifference and state medical negligence claims and, therefore, Defendants are entitled to summary judgment as a matter of law, based both on R.M.'s failure to state a claim and because the Defendants have qualified immunity from R.M.'s suit.

A. The Question of Whether Alternative Treatments Could Have Been Offered to R.M. in 2014 or 2015 Does Not Give Rise to a §1983 Deliberate Indifference Claim

The United States Supreme Court in *Estelle v. Gamble*, 429 U.S. 97, 107 (1976) held that a decision to order or not to order additional treatments does not represent cruel and unusual punishment. Thus, the fact that topical Verapamil, injected Verapamil, injected Xiaflex and penile implants may have existed as treatments for Peyronie's disease in 2014 but were not offered to R.M. as possible treatments does not give rise to a §1983 deliberate indifference claim. *Toguchi v. Chung*, 391 F.3d 1051, 1058 (9th Cir. 2004). These facts are dispositive and alone warrant dismissal.

In his Second Amended Complaint, R.M. appears to assert a new legal theory alleging that had the CRC granted the urology consultation on January 21, 2015, R.M. could have obtained a Xiaflex injection because he had palpable plaques in his penis at that time but because

they disappeared by the time he saw Dr. Russell, the consultant, on October 6, 2017, he was denied the opportunity for such treatment. 2nd Am. Cmplt. ¶ 4.6. (Dkt. 92). To prevail on this theory, R.M. has the burden to prove that the disappearance of the plaque was not an improvement of his symptoms but, instead, an injury caused by a defendant. *See, Wood v. Housewright*, 900 F.2d 1332, 1334 99th Cir. 1990)(inmate given medical care at prison that met his needs). R.M. also has the burden to prove that a Xiaflex injection was an approved treatment under the Offender Health Plan and that each individual CRC member's decisions to deny R.M. a urology consultation on January 21, 2015, was the actual and proximate cause of his injury.

The undisputed facts show that at the time of the January 21, 2015, CRC meeting, R.M. was actively engaged in the second month of a six month course of treatment of the medication Trental and was being monitored by Dr. Edwards with six-week follow up visits. R.M. agreed to this course of treatment and continued taking Trental for its full course. Edwards 11/14/18 Decl., ¶ 10 (Dkt. 53, pp. 4-5). So if, as R.M. alleges in his Second Amended Complaint, a Xiaflex injection was for the purpose of breaking down "collagen scar tissue" and R.M. admits the scar tissue in his penis disappeared after January 8, 2015, the court must naturally ask, "Where is the injury?"

B. R.M.'s Admitted Decision Not to Seek Medical Help for His Peyronie's Disease Caused the Delay in R.M. Receiving Treatment

R.M. alleges that Dr. Russell told him that "if the Department had provided treatment back in 2014 and 2015, it could have prevented the severity of the deformity" and that "the damage would be permanent." 2nd Am. Cmplt, ¶ 4.20 (Dkt. 93).² R.M. alleges the delay in getting a urology consultation caused him injury. The undisputed facts, however, show that no

² Defendants point out that what Dr. Russell "told" R.M. is hearsay that should not be considered as evidence for summary judgment purposes. Fed. Rules of Evid. 802; *Montgomery v. Kitsap County*, 297 Fed. Appx. 613, 614 (9th Cir. 2008) (hearsay statements are inadmissible at summary judgment).

defendant caused any delay in R.M. getting treatment for his Peyronie's disease and, therefore, as a matter of law, no defendant was deliberately indifferent to R.M.'s serious medical needs.

Even if, for the purposes of Defendants' Summary Judgment Motion, the court accepts R.M.'s allegations about Dr. Russell's statements as admissible and as true, the undisputed facts show that after August 6, 2014, R.M. admitted to several WSP medical providers that he did not return to the WSP medical clinic because he was mad that the CRC for the decision it made. Julie Mason Declaration, dated November 14, 2018, ¶ 5 (Dkt. 55); PA-C Jenn Ambrose Meyers Declaration, dated November 15, 2018, ¶ 6 (Dkt 56); Edwards 11/14/18 Decl. ¶ 10 (Dkt 53). It was at the urging of R.N. Mason and PA-C Ambrose Meyers that R.M. visited Dr. Edwards on November 20, 2014. Id. At this visit, Dr. Edwards prescribed Trental, an oral medication treatment for Peyronie's disease, a treatment to which R.M. agreed. Edwards 11/14/18 Decl, ¶ 10 (Dkt. 53). R.M. also agreed to a six week follow up on January 8, 2015. Id. To the extent R.M. alleges that he was injured because he was not offered Xiaflex injections in 2014 while he still had palpable plaque in his penis, the court should find that such alleged injury was not actually or proximately caused by any defendant but was due to R.M.'s own choices not to seek treatment for his Peyronie's disease after August 6, 2014 until November 20, 2014. Then, on that day, R.M. accepted taking a six month course of Trental. *Id.* The court should rule based on these undisputed facts that R.M. cannot prove any deliberate indifference by any defendant in the R.M.'s medical care in 2014.

At the January 8, 2015, R.M. agreed to continue taking Trental and also agreed to another follow-up visit on March 5, 2015. Edwards 11/14/18 Decl. ¶ 11 (Dkt, 53, pp. 5-6). At the March 5, 2015 medical visit, R.M. met with PA-C Phillips and he did not discuss his Peyronie's disease with her. Phillips 11/14/18 Decl. ¶ 10 (Dkt. 58). After March 5, 2015, R.M. admits he did not seek treatment for his Peyronie's disease until January 2017. 2nd Am. Cmplt. ¶ 4.12 (Dkt. 92). Based on these facts, the Court should hold that any delay in R.M. obtaining medical treatment

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for his Peyronie's disease in 2015 was due to R.M.'s own choice not to seek treatment for his disease and not due to any deliberate indifference of any defendant.

C. There Are No New Allegations Alleging Specific Wrongful Conduct by Any Defendant

To prevail in a §1983 deliberate indifference claim, R.M. must allege the particulars of conduct time, place and the person responsible. *See, Evancho v. Fisher*, 423 F.3d 347, 354 (3rd Cir. 2005). R.M. alleges that the second reason he did not seek treatment for his Peyronie's disease after January 8, 2015 was because he "had been told that his condition would resolve itself in two years." 2nd Am. Cmplt. ¶ 4.12 (Dkt. 92). R.M. has the burden to establish the elements of this claim. R.M., however, does not identify any individual defendant as the person making this statement or allege any other facts such as time, place to establish the elements of this claim. This omission warrants summary judgment.

R.M. does not allege nor are there any facts in the record that link a statement by a Defendant to any injury. Furthermore, because R.M. admits that he unilaterally chose not to follow up on his Peyronie's disease treatment after the CRC denied the consultation requests, it would be impossible to know if the unidentified individual's statement to R.M. was the actual and proximate cause of his alleged injury. Without such supporting evidence, the court should find, as a matter of law, that R.M. cannot establish a §1983 deliberate indifference claim as to any defendant.

When ARNP Edith Kroha examined R.M.'s penis on June 13, 2017, she found no lesions there. Edith Kroha 11/14/18 Decl. ¶ 6 (Dkt. 52, pp. 2-3). When Dr. Kenney examined R.M. on July 19, 2017, as part of investigating R.M.'s grievance, he also found no discrete lumps and he found R.M's penis to have normal cavernosal structures, normal meatus and normal scrotal contents. These findings led Dr. Kenney to state in his report that his findings did not match R.M.'s reported history. David Kenney 11/14/18 Declaration, ¶ 7 (Dkt. 51). Similarly, upon physical examination of R.M.'s penis on October 6, 2017, Dr. Russell reported that he could

locate "no discrete nodule on the shaft of the penis" and found "Meatus is normal. Scrotal contents normal." Attachment F to Kroha 11/14/18 Decl. (Dkt. 52, p. 12).

It is undisputed that R.M.'s palpable plaque disappeared. The only conclusion the court can draw from this fact is that treatment was provided, R.M. did not seek further treatment for two years, at which time the prior physical findings were no longer present.

D. If R.M. Believes the Drug Lisinopril Caused his Peyronie's Disease, His Remedy is to Sue the Manufacturer of Lisinopril, Not the Defendants

The record shows that throughout the time asserted by R.M. as the claim, R.M. consented to taking Lisinopril to address his hypertension issues and DOC medical practitioners actively monitored his hypertension. Phillips 11/14/18 Decl. ¶ 10 (Dkt. 58, p. 4); Attachment C to Wei Weller 11/15/18 Decl. (Dkt. 60, p. 5). On November 9, 2016, ARNP Kroha determined that R.M. was no longer hypertensive and could stop taking the medication. *Id.* The successful treatment of R.M.'s hypertension through the medication Lisinopril is not a deliberate indifference to R.M.'s serious medical needs. Moreover, even though Dr. Edwards told R.M. that the cause of Peyronie's disease is unknown and was very unlikely to be caused by any drug R.M. was taking, if R.M. believes Lisinopril caused his Peyronie's disease, he has the burden to prove this allegation. Even if he could prove his claim his remedy is against the manufacturer of Lisinopril, not any of these defendants.

E. Nothing in the Second Amended Complaint Defeats Defendants' Qualified Immunity from R.M.'s lawsuit

Plaintiffs have pointed the Court to no case that supports the proposition that medical providers must provide an inmate with a specialist consultation when an in-house prison physician is actively treating and monitoring an inmate who is on a 180 day course of medication recommended for people with his disease. It is R.M.'s burden to prove a "clearly established" violation of standard medical practice. Nothing in the Second Amended Complaint can establish this point. Because Plaintiff has failed to direct the Court to any applicable legal authority or specific facts, the Court must hold that each individual defendant who participated in either the

August 6, 2014 or the January 21, 2015, CRC meeting did not violate a clearly established Eighth			
Amendment right. Moreover, even if R.M. could prove that a clearly established constitutional			
right is at issue, the Court should hold that where R.M. was under active treatment with a			
medication recommended for people with Peyronie's disease, that it would not have been clear			
to any member of the CRC under that circumstance that denying a urology consultation was			
unlawful. On these grounds, the court should hold that each Defendant is each entitled to			
immunity from R.M.'s suit.			
F. None of Dr. Russell's Recommendations Are Approved Treatments in the Offender Health Plan So Were Not Options Available to R.M. at Any Time			
The Offender Health Plan is the State's medical plan provided to inmates. Attachment			
A to Edwards 11/14/18 Decl. (Dkt. 53, pp. 8-47). Section XVI of the Plan explicitly identifies			
medical services the Offender Health Plan does not cover. <i>Id.</i> (Dkt. 53, pp 32-35). These are			
identified as "Level 3: Not Medically Necessary Care. Not authorized to be provided." Among			
care that is expressly not provided are:			
Consultant appointments: Either initial or follow-up where the skills requires should be within the skill set of a primary care provider Consultant recommendations: including instructions and orders when not a Level 1 intervention. See Special Circumstances or Exceptions above. Cosmetic treatment or surgery: Including, but not limited to, the following examples: mammoplasty (augmentation or reduction, with or without prosthetic), skin lesion removal by excision, chemical or cryoablation, scar revision, keloid injection or removal, liposuction Erectile Dysfunction: evaluation or treatment of erectile dysfunction including medical or surgical treatment, implanted prostheses, external erectile aids Experimental therapies or tests: any care which is currently under investigation or has unproven value			
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Id. at p. 24-26 (bolding added).

One new allegation in the Second Amended Complaint is that consultant Dr. Russell's assessment and recommended plan were presented to the CRC on November 8, 2017 and the committee deemed each of the recommended treatments not medically necessary. 2nd Am. Cmplt. Dkt. 92, ¶ 4.22. The Offender Health Plan explicitly states that the DOC is not obligated to execute any consultant's recommendation.³ Attachment A to Edwards 11/14/18 Decl. (Dkt. 53, p. 23). R.M. has the burden to prove that either Dr. Fetroe or Dr. Sawyer was deliberately indifferent to R.M.'s serious medical needs in denying the recommended treatments despite the fact that, as Defendants will show below, the Offender Health Plan does not authorize the treatments Dr. Russell recommended.

First, as to the topical medication Verapamil, even Dr. Russell recognized that this medical was ineffective, stating that this was the most conservative approach "but cures were not that common". Attachment F to Kroha 11/14/18 Decl. (Dkt. 52, pp. 11-13). Being a treatment of "unproven value", the CRC correctly denied this treatment. R.M. has not identified any clearly established Eighth Amendment law that requires a State to provide an inmate with a medical treatment that is known to be ineffective and of unproven value and the court should so hold.

Similarly, the court should find it reasonable and justified for the CRC on November 8, 2017, to deny the request for R.M. to receive injections of either Verapamil or Xiaflex. Dr. Russell stated in his report that the use of chemical injections requires a discrete lesion to inject

³ Section XIII.ii of the Offender Health Plan specifically states the role of consultants and their Recommendations as follows:

During the course of health care, patients are sometimes referred to consultants including specialists, ER providers and hospital providers. Such referrals often generate recommendations including instructions and orders. **DOC** is not obligated to execute these recommendations, which are subject to the same criteria as any other **DOC** provided care. It is the responsibility of the patient's primary care practitioner to evaluate the appropriateness and necessity of the recommendations in light of the patient's global health care while considering the OHP, DOC policy, and any other pertinent factor. When primary care practitioners do not execute consultant recommendations, they are expect to explain their reasons to the patient and document the reasons in the health record. Attachment A to Edwards 11/14/18 Decl. (Dkt. 53,p. 23),

and in examining R.M. he did not find any discrete lesions on R.M.'s penis. *Id.* Dr. Russell expressly stated in his recommended plan that "I don't believe [R.M.] is a candidate for intracorporeal injections based on current findings." *Id.* R.M. has not identified any clearly established Eighth Amendment law that would require a State to provide medical treatment to an inmate who does not meet the physical requirements for the treatment and that even the consultant does not recommend. Additionally, the Offender Health Plan expressly does not authorize the removal of scar tissue through the use of chemical injections and the court should so hold.

The third recommendation Dr. Russell made was a penile implant. *Id.* The Offender Health Plan expressly does not authorize inmates to receive medical treatment for erectile dysfunction. Attachment A to Edwards 11/14/18 Decl., p. 25 (Dkt. 53, p. 33). Additionally, the Offender Health Plan specifically does not authorize inmates to receive penile implants. *Id.* Dr. Russell recognized this prohibition when he stated in his October 6, 2017, report, "Sometimes a penile implant is the best solution to both maintain quality of erections and prevent further loss of length. That is certainly the most aggressive, radical approach . . . I am not sure whether, as a prisoner, he would be considered for a penile implant." Exhibit F to Kroha 11/14/18 Decl. (Dkt. 52, p. 13). R.M. has not identified any clearly established Eighth Amendment law that requires a State to provide an inmate with medical services for erectile dysfunction and/or to provide inmates with penile implants and the court should so hold.

V. CONCLUSION

For all of the reasons stated above, the Defendants request that the Court hold, as a matter of law, that allegations in R.M.'s Second Amended Complaint do not raise any issue of material fact, that R.M. fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, and that the undisputed facts establish that Defendants are entitled to summary judgment and qualified immunity as a matter of law. On these grounds, Defendants request that the Court dismiss R.M.'s 42 U.S.C. §1983 claim and his pendent State medical negligence claim with prejudice.

1	DATED this 22th day of March, 2019
2	ROBERT W. FERGUSON
3	Attorney General
4	s/ Michelle Hitomi Hansen MICHELLE HITOMI HANSEN, WSBA No. 14051 Assistant Attorney General
5	PO Box 40126 Olympia, Washington 98504-0126
6	Tel: (360) 586-6300 E-mail: michelleh3@atg.wa.gov
7	Attorneys for Defendants State of Washington, Allbert, Berglin, Lopez de Castilla, Edwards, Fetroe,
8	Hammond, Kenney, Keppler, Kroha, Larsen,
9	Longano, Moore, Neisner, Newlon, Palmer, Remy, Reyes, Smith, Sawyer and Stanbury
10	
11	s/Rhianna M. Fronapfel (signature authorized by email dated March 22, 2019)
12	Rhianna M. Fronapfel, WSBA #38636 Bennett Bigelow & Leedom, P.S.
13	601 Union Street, Ste 1500 Seattle, WA 98101-1363
14	rfronapfel@bbllaw.com Attorney for Defendant
15	Dale Robertson, PA-C
16	s/Ketia Wick (signature authorized by email dated
17	March 22, 2019) Ketia B. Wick
18	FAVROS Law 701 5 th Avenue, Ste 4750
19	Seattle, WA 98104 ketia@favros.com
20	Attorneys for Defendant Sheri Malakhova, MD
21	
22	
23	
24	
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26	

1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE		
2	1	ay of March, 2019, I caused to be electronically filed f the Court using the CM/ECF system and caused to	
3 4	be served a copy of this document on all p follows:	parties or their counsel of record on the date below as	
5	Attorneys for Plaintiff:	Attorney for Defendant	
6	Michael Kahrs, Esq. Kahrs Law Firms, P.S.	Dale Robertson, PA-C:	
7 8	2208 NW Market St., Suite 414 Seattle, WA 98107 mike@kahrslaw firm.com Dan N. Fiorito III Law Office of Dan N. Fiorito III 844 NW 48 th Street Seattle, WA 98107 dan@danfiorito.com	Rhianna M. Fronapfel Bennett Bigelow & Leedom, P.S. 601 Union Street, Ste 1500	
9		Seattle, WA 98101-1363 <u>rfronapfel@bbllaw.com</u>	
10		Attorneys for Defendant Sheri Malakhova, MD:	
11		Ketia B. Wick	
12 13		FAVROS Law 701 5 th Avenue, Ste 4750 Seattle, WA 98104	
14		ketia@favros.com	
15	DATED this 22th day of March, 2	019.	
16 17		ROBERT W. FERGUSON Attorney General	
18		s/ Michelle Hitomi Hansen MICHELLE HITOMI HANSEN, WSBA No. 14051	
19		Assistant Attorney General PO Box 40126	
20		Olympia, Washington 98504-0126 Tel: (360) 586-6300 E-mail: michelleh3@atg.wa.gov	
21		Attorneys for Defendants	
22 23			
24			
25			
26			